AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing a screw connection by a cutout screwdriver (10) that terminates a screw driving operation when a predetermined torque is achieved,

wherein data relating to the operation are detected and evaluated by an evaluation circuit (18) being integrated in the cutout screwdriver (10), and then transmitted to an external monitoring unit (20), and

wherein the cutout screwdriver (10) is deactivated when a number of idle screwdriver actuations exceeds a predetermined limit value per screw driving cycle.

2. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the monitoring unit (20) receives the transmitted data and evaluates them with regard to predetermined limit values, and, when the predetermined limit values are not met, then an error message is generated.

3. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1,
wherein when the data are evaluated as being outside a tolerance range, then the cutout screwdriver (10) is deactivated.

4. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1,

wherein a torque sensor (12) in the cutout screwdriver (10) detects a current torque and transmits it to the evaluation circuit (18).

5. (original) The method as recited in claim 4,

wherein the evaluation circuit (18), based on the achievement of a desired torque, determines whether a correct screw driving operation has been executed.

6. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1,

wherein the evaluation circuit (18) detects the number of screw driving operations per screw driving cycle.

7. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1,

wherein the evaluation circuit (18) detects the duration of a screw driving procedure.

8. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1,

wherein the evaluation circuit (18) detects the current consumption and/or voltage drop of the cutout screwdriver during the screw driving operation.

9. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1,

wherein limit values for the data transmitted from the evaluation circuit (18) are stored in the monitoring unit (20), with which the transmitted data are compared and evaluated, and when limit value criteria are not met, the monitoring unit (20) sends the cutout screwdriver (10) a signal that causes the supply of current to the cutout screwdriver (10) to be interrupted.

10. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the evaluation circuit (18) is coupled to the monitoring unit (20).

11. (original) The method as recited in claim 10,
wherein the cutout screwdriver (10) has a transmitter/receiver system, which, in conjunction with a transmitted signal, is able to interrupt a supply of current to the cutout screwdriver (10).

12. (original) The method as recited in claim 10,
wherein the monitoring unit (20) has a transmitter/receiver system that is able to receive data transmitted from the evaluation circuit (18) and to send a deactivation signal to the cutout screwdriver (10).

13. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the monitoring unit (20) has an evaluation unit (22) in which the data transmitted from the evaluation circuit (18) are stored, compared with limit values for the

transmitted data, and evaluated, and, when limit value criteria are not met, the evaluation unit sends the cutout screwdriver (10) a signal that permits a control unit (16) to interrupt the supply.

14. (previously presented) A cutout screwdriver equipped with a transmitter/receiver unit for executing the method as recited in claim 1.

15. (currently amended) A cutout screwdriver, comprising:

an evaluation circuit being integrated in the cutout screwdriver; and

an external monitoring unit,

wherein the evaluation circuit detects and evaluates data relating to an operation of the cutout screwdriver, and then transmits the evaluated data to the external monitoring unit, and

wherein the cutout screwdriver (10) is deactivated when a number of idle screwdriver actuations exceeds a predetermined limit value per screw driving cycle.